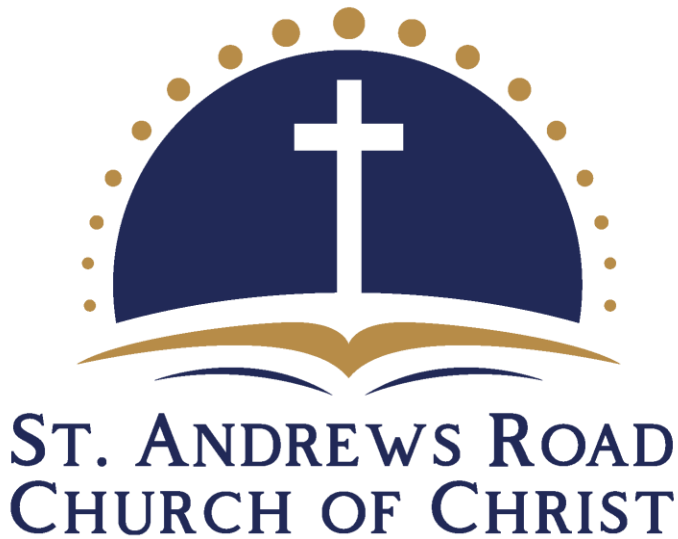


August 13, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 33



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Imagine, as you are hiking down a path, you come to a dark forest. You have never been this way, and you do not know what is in the forest. But you do know that you have to go through it to reach your destination. Sounds a little creepy, doesn't it? You may be tempted to turn around and go back the way you came.

When Jesus was about to leave this world, he told his apostles, **Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you (John 13:33, NKJV). Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward" (v. 36).** Jesus was alluding to his imminent death and to his disciples' eventual deaths. He was about to go down that dark path, and the disciples could only watch him go. What is comforting in his words is that it is a place in which we can follow him. We can take comfort that Jesus has traveled this path and is waiting on the other side, at the side of his Father. **"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father" (John 16:16).**

However, to see a loved one travel that path is a difficult ordeal, for we are left behind as he or she travels that road alone. Jesus also had to travel that road alone, but he told his apostles, **Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you (John 16:20-22).** The pain of losing a loved one is real, just as the pain a woman experiences in childbirth. But for the Christian, that pain will turn to joy when we see our loved ones again - in eternity! There will not be any more goodbyes, nor anymore lonely dark paths. Therefore, our joy will never be taken from us.

This is what Paul was trying to help the **not want you to be ignorant, have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow we believe that Jesus died and rose Him those who sleep in Jesus** experience sorrow when our loved them that they could not sorrow. He to experience the same kind of sorrow Jesus and his resurrection. Those their loved one again. How sad! Most of us have experienced the death of a loved one, and we know and still experience the grief of that loss. But I believe one of the many joys we will experience in heaven is the reunion with those loved ones. To see your loved ones again in a state of perfect health, having a spiritual body that cannot be destroyed, is something we eagerly anticipate.



Thessalonians to understand. **But I do brethren, concerning those who as others who have no hope. For if again, even so God will bring with (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).** We do ones pass away. Paul was not telling was telling them that they did not have that others do who do not believe in people have no hope of ever seeing

The dark path is there. Everyone must travel it alone. But take heart, Jesus has already been there, and he is waiting on the other side for us where eternal life and light dwell.

Brotherly, Jamie

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

A Jot from John,

He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to go with him. His only daughter was dying. But even as they made their way through the congested streets, a messenger met them to say, "*Your daughter is dead; don't trouble the Teacher.*" Immediately, Jesus sought to comfort the man: "*Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be all right!*" Even when they arrived and found the family and friends mourning, Jesus sought to lift their great burden, but they laughed bitterly as he said, "*Don't cry, for she isn't dead but is sleeping.*" Undaunted, Jesus took her hand and said, "*Little girl. . . arise!*" And to the utter amazement of all but Jesus, the twelve-year-old immediately stood up.

The Gift of Life

Jesus possessed the gift of life. Indeed, it was the heart of his gospel: "*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*" Of course, Jesus spoke not merely of an abundant life on earth; he spoke also of eternal life, and the fact that he could raise from the dead individuals like Jairus's daughter demonstrated his power to award such a gift!

To the woman at Jacob's well, he said, "*Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life!*" And when Martha failed to acknowledge his power to raise Lazarus from the dead, the Master replied, "*I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live!*"

Power Over Death

To countless thousands, there is genuine hope of life beyond the grave. Hope which is based upon a confident faith in the power of Christ over death. Jesus claimed this power even before he was crucified; "*For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.*" And as proof that he did, the apostle Paul could count five hundred witnesses, who had seen Christ alive after his death and resurrection.

Our Hope of Life

Think of the tremendous promise this holds for you and me, to possess eternal life beyond the grave. Life which, according to the apostle Paul, is "*the free gift of God.*" And who may obtain such a gift? The Bible says that Jesus is the "*author of eternal salvation to all those that obey him!*" In his own words, "*He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life.*" It is a marvelous truth and a marvelous gift—eternal life! With Paul we can say, "*Death is swallowed up in victory . . . but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*"

John B. Daniels, Associate Minister



SUMMER SERIES

The FUNDAMENTALS of the Doctrine of Christ

Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

August 16

"Day of Judgment"

Jordan Calloway,
Charlotte Ave. COC

Ladies Day

at St. Andrews Road Church of Christ

Saturday, August 26

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

"Unite Us Again"

Romans 12:10

Speakers:

Victoria Hughes & Michelle Bolen

Have you signed up?

Have you invited a friend?

GOSPEL MEETING

at St. Andrews Road Church of Christ

September 17 - 20

"How To Live

The Abundant Life—Here and Hereafter

Speaker: BJ Clarke

Director of the Memphis School of Preaching

Leaders Planning Meeting

Sunday, August 27

4:00 PM